

Message Text

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62

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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Z 132035Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 8616

S E C R E T LISBON 3782

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJ: LAJES FLIGHTS

REF: LISBON 3781

1. FONMIN PATRICIO CALLED AT 1940Z TO ADVISE THAT PRIME MINISTER CAETANO HAD GIVEN APPROVAL TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE FLIGHTS TO ISRAEL VIA LAJES FIELD IN THE AZORES. PATRICIO DID NOT HIDE FACT THAT HE HAD BEEN OVERRULED BY CAETANO AND THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY UNHAPPY AT THE DECISION. "THIS SOLVES YOUR PROBLEM BUT NOT OURS," HE SAID.

2. CLEARLY WE MUST EXPECT THAT PORTUGUESE WILL SEEK TO EXTRACT MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE FOR ACCEDING TO THIS US REQUEST AGAINST, THEY WILL MAINTAIN, THEIR OWN BEST INTERESTS. THIS WILL BE PARTICULARLY TRUE WITH RESPECT TO THE AZORES BASE RIGHTS RENEWAL. OUR ABILITY TO SELL TO THE PORTUGUESE THE IDEA THAT NATO RATHER THAN US NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE PARAMOUNT AT LAJES HAS OF COURSE BEEN COMPROMISED BY THIS EPISODE.

3. WE MAY, HOWEVER, STILL BE ABLE TO TURN THIS EPISODE TO OUR NEGOTIATING ADVANTAGE. DURING LAST NEGOTIATION, WE ADAMANTLY REFUSED TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AS FORMING PART OF THE ACCORD. IF WE NOW MOVE RAPIDLY INTO FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS, WE COULD INDICATE TO PORTUGUESE THAT, BECAUSE OF THEIR AGREEMENT TO THE USE OF LAJES FOR RE-SUPPLY OF ISRAEL, WE
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ARE NOW PREPARED TO CONSIDER INCLUDING IN THE NEW AZORES AGREEMENT CERTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT, I.E., P-3 AIRCRAFT. THIS COULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF GIVING THEM THE FEELING OF BEING REWARDED FOR CAETANO'S DECISION TODAY AND AT THE SAME TIME GET THE

NEGOTIATIONS BACK ON THE NATO-PARAMOUNTCY RAILS.

POST

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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